

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, April 26, 2022, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Over a lengthy career, Olmsted was an author, journalist, public official, city planner, landscape architect, and creative genius who transformed the American landscape.

Olmsted's philosophy and designs influenced the development of beautiful and functional landscapes, including parks and parkways, college campuses, planned communities, estates, cemeteries, recreation areas, and specialized landscapes for arboreta and expositions including, the U.S. Capitol grounds, New York City's Central Park, Yosemite Valley, Hot Springs National Park, and Stanford University.

Olmsted is remembered as the premier landscape architect in the United States during the 19th century and is considered to be the founder of landscape architecture in the United States. He was also one of the first individuals to promote the idea of national parks in his 1865 Yosemite Report.

Olmsted believed that thoughtful landscape designs should promote community, advance democracy, provide recreational opportunities in urban environments, nurture and invigorate public health, and encourage the development of livable communities.

Olmsted's associates, sons, and successor firms carried out his philosophy and designs well into the 20th century, leaving a tremendous legacy of historic landscapes that continues to benefit the people of the United States and visitors throughout the world.

Olmsted inspired the development of large parks and park systems for public benefit in urban areas, creating a legacy of parks that are a singular feature of the urban experience.

Olmsted's landscape designs play a vital role in the enrichment of quality of life in hundreds of communities across the United States who are celebrating this bicentennial anniversary as part of a coordinated national and local celebration.

I commend this occasion and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF J. DARREN STEWART

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the distin-

guished service of Chief Darren Stewart of Pawcatuck, Connecticut. As the Chief of Police in Stonington, Stewart led an esteemed career that spanned over 38 years since he joined the force at the age of 19. In leading the division for the last 14 years, Chief Stewart has embodied the spirit of a perfect role model and leader—one that I am sure that future chiefs, not just in Stonington but also across the entire district, will look to in praise and admiration.

In addition to serving in the police department, Stewart also pursued a passion for learning and teaching. In 2000, he earned a Bachelor of General Studies from the University of Connecticut in Storrs and continued his studies at Salve Regina University of Rhode Island to earn his Master of Business Administration in Management. Armed with these degrees and a passion for helping others grow, Darren began a secondary career as a professor for his alma maters and the Connecticut State Police Academy in 2004. Since his first day as a professor, Stewart has proved a patient and wise teacher committed to educating future community members.

Chief Stewart's dual-path as an educator and community leader proved to make him a natural, steady-handed Chief of the Stonington Police Department. Passionate about the protection of his local community, Stewart's dedication and impressive work ethic earned him the promotion of Chief of Police in 2008. As someone whose career originated with the force, he came into the role with a clear understanding of the greatest opportunities for improvement. It was with this background in mind that prioritizing an efficient and resource-rich workforce became the first, second and third priority.

One-by-one, Chief Stewart marked off his checklist of goals for the force, equipping his officers with the tools that they needed to succeed. This included updating mechanical systems and computer technology, acquiring a new police boat, and creating a chaplain program to assist his officers with the toughest part of the job—notifying immediate family of the tragic loss of one of their colleagues. Notably, it was also with much thanks to Chief Stewart's efforts that Stonington led the movement to invest in local communications infrastructure and tie the agency into the state's superior radio system. As a result of Chief Stewart's initiative and the town's major upgrade in terms of safe and efficient communication, Stonington earned the 2018 Municipal Excellence Award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. With Chief Stewart at the helm, the Stonington Police Department also entered a partnership with Safe Futures, a social services agency based in nearby New London, Connecticut, which now supports the town in assisting victims of domestic violence. My office has worked with the Stonington Police Department to obtain federal competitive grant funding in the past and I can personally attest that the department would not be nearly as well equipped and successful as it is today without Chief Stewart's hard work and advocacy for his fellow officers.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to represent such selfless and committed constituents as Darren Stewart in the second district of Connecticut. Inspired by his wife, Beth, three daughters, and the difference made by his own colleagues, Chief Stewart set out to ensure the Stonington Police Department worked for their partners: the People of Stonington. Though his transition into his new role undoubtedly leaves large shoes to fill, we find gratitude in the fact that he has left the department in incredible standing, in capable hands, and that Chief Stewart will remain an active member of the local community. To that end, as he embarks on this next chapter with his family, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Chief J. Darren Stewart, an inspiring leader and impeccable role model, for his huge successes in the police department and impact on the countless lives of others, extending the legacy of his career.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CHRIS WILDER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Wilder who is retiring after 18 years as the President and Executive Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation. His impact and contributions can be seen throughout our community.

In 2004, Chris Wilder joined the Valley Medical Center Foundation, which is the nonprofit organization that acts as the community fundraising arm for Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center. This center provides care to 1 in 4 valley residents and is home to San Jose's only top-level trauma center. Since joining the foundation, Chris has raised more than \$100 million for our safety net health system. In his first two years alone in the position, he led two multimillion-dollar capital campaigns that allowed for the completion of the Parisi House on the Hill and the purchase of a new linear accelerator for the Sobrato Cancer Center. He also was a major champion for Measure A, which generated \$840 million to build Sobrato Pavilion, the new adult hospital building and a major health center in downtown San Jose. Chris was integral in Santa Clara County's COVID-19 response, where he helped secure over \$30 million in funds and donated supplies to protect healthcare workers, expand testing, and support vaccination efforts.

I have been honored to see his work firsthand and am so grateful for his steadfast resolve to help ensure that our safety net remains strong. He's been rightfully called a "nonprofit superhero" as his efforts can be seen throughout the Valley Medical Center campus. Please join me in thanking Mr. Wilder for his years of dedication and wishing him the very best in his retirement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING VICTORIA BRANDON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria Brandon, whom I have named the 5th Congressional District's 2022 Climate Crisis Champion from Lake County for her inspiring leadership in combatting the climate crisis currently gripping our communities.

Victoria Brandon was born in New York City and attended Brandeis University. She has been a California resident since 1976, and she has resided in Lake County since 1981.

Ms. Brandon has been an active community member, beginning her service in 2004 as Secretary of the Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch, where she served until 2020. The next year, she increased her involvement by joining the Sierra Club Lake Group, followed by the Tuleyome Board of Directors and then the Sierra Club Redwood Chapter, which she still serves to this day. From 2009 to 2015, Ms. Brandon represented the Sierra Club on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, which she chaired in 2013. Additionally, she chaired the Sierra Club Agriculture and Food Task Force from 2014 to 2015. Ms. Brandon was also a member of the Sierra Club national political team from 2013 to 2021, serving as the chair from 2016 to 2021.

Ms. Brandon has worked on many essential environmental projects, such as the designation of Cache Creek as Wild and Scenic River in 2005, the adoption of California Strategic Framework on invasive species in 2010, the development of Sierra Club policy on Agriculture and Food in 2015, and the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain National monument in 2015. Ms. Brandon founded the Sierra Club Grassroots Network Team on Food and Agriculture in 2016 and organized the data on Clear Lake Hitch spawning migrations from 2004 until 2020. When Ms. Brandon is not fighting for climate justice, she enjoys reading, gardening, and other outdoor activities.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Victoria Brandon has dedicated her life to combating the climate crisis in our communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

DON CHILDEARS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Childears of the Colorado Bankers Association on his retirement.

For more than forty years, Don has served the Colorado banking community in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Bankers Association. He got his start in public policy on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. and managed several successful congressional campaigns before joining CBA in 1975. During his time at CBA, Don navigated the adoption of branch banking in Colorado and was instrumental in creating the Executive Development Institute at the Graduate School of Banking at

Colorado. He also worked with Congress on legislation such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, and federal legislation to protect banks and other businesses from liability surrounding Y2K issues. Don has been a national leader in helping banks navigate the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws, and he has been a strong supporter of the SAFE Banking Act.

In addition, Don has served on several boards and committees including BancInsure Board of Directors and Reinsurance Committee; Graduate School of Banking at University of Colorado; Trustee and Treasurer, Graduate School of Banking (University of Wisconsin-Madison); and Board Member of the American Bankers Association along with participation on several subcommittees and task forces. Don has a passion for education, and he teaches and lectures to many banking and law schools including the University of Denver, University of Colorado, and George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. His vast presence and ongoing contribution to the banking community here and across the country earned him the Denver Business Journal's Pinnacle Award for The Most Admired CEO in November 2020. Don has also been recognized with industry awards including the Scarboro Award from CU's Graduate School of Banking.

In addition to Don's work professionally, he has served his community in other capacities. He has served on the Common Sense Institute board, Vice-Chair of Let Colorado Vote, and Chair of the Colorado Competitive Council, to name a few. He remains active on many other campaigns and initiatives, task forces, nominating committees, advisory boards, and charitable and political committees.

I have had the privilege of working with Don on many different occasions and always appreciate his advice and insight on many issues. His hard work and dedication to the banking industry is tremendous. I wish Don all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
AGAMYRAT AGAMBAYEZ**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez. This man, still in the prime of his life, was ruthlessly murdered in broad daylight in Tempe, Arizona. The killer took the life of a husband, a father, and an incredible immigrant to this country who was all set to start his new career working at Intel.

This young man was loved by many and led an impressive life that will not go unnoticed.

Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez was an impressive scholar receiving his second Ph.D at Arizona State University. He had also recently accepted an engineering job at Intel that he worked so diligently to get. But most importantly, Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez was a friend to many, an extraordinary husband and a dedicated father to his two year old son. Dr. Agamyrat's wife, Sumeyra Agambayez states, "He had a real bright future . . . he was dedi-

cated, smart, and studied tirelessly for years at universities to start giving back to the community here and abroad in Turkmenistan."

I condemn the crime here, and the loss to humanity. I am appalled at the growing crime and homeless problems in Tempe and Phoenix. Our people need to be assured they can live and work in a community without fear of a murderous car jacker lurking to take one's life and property.

I mourn for his young family. His son will be left with little memory of his father. But I hope one day his son will read these words, and the words of others, and know that his father was a bright star in the sky and made the world a better place. He lived and died with honor.

My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones and shall Dr. Agamyrat Agambayez never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING EMILY BEAR
OF ROCKFORD FOR WINNING A
GRAMMY AWARD**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Emily Bear on her Grammy Award for "Best Musical Theater Album."

A graduate of Guilford High School, 20-year-old Emily Bear is a native of Rockford, Illinois. Since graduating in 2017, she has released numerous albums, scored major films with Warner Brothers and has performed at internationally renowned settings, such as the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. This year, Emily won her first Grammy Award with Abigail Barlow for Best Musical Theater Album for "The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical." Last year, Emily and Abigail began the project inspired by the popular Netflix series by going through the show's plot as if it were a musical. With her hard work, Emily has turned a viral social media sensation into a Grammy Award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Emily Bear on her first Grammy Award and wish her much success in her life and career.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE BURNS-HICKS

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's true pioneers, Annie Burns-Hicks, the School City of Hammond's first African American teacher. Earlier this year, the Hammond School Board voted unanimously to rename Maywood Elementary School, which she attended in her youth and at which she taught for the majority of her career, to Annie Burns-Hicks Elementary School. The School City of Hammond will be honoring Ms. Burns-Hicks at a special event taking place on April 28, 2022.

The eldest of thirteen children, Annie's family relocated from Mississippi to Hammond, Indiana, in 1944. Her parents, Albert and Mary Burns, sought a better life for their children